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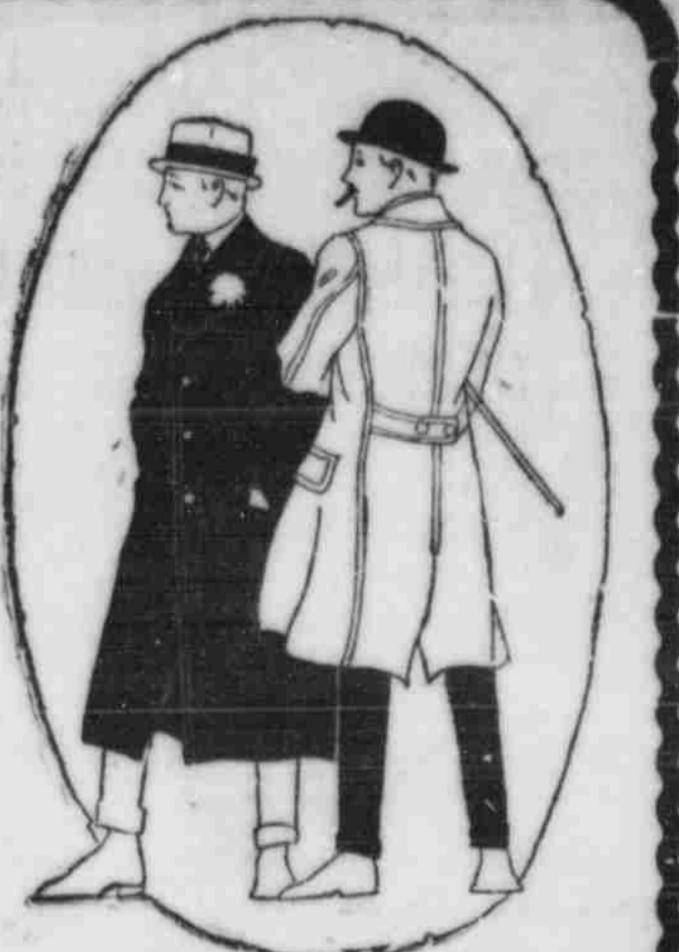
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Batum—the Great Oil Port of Russia

Washington, Dec. 28.—The National Geographic society today gave out descriptions of the great Russian oil port of Batum, which the Turks recently bombarded, and of the Vistula river region, which has been the scene of the great eastern campaign between Russian and Austro-German forces.

Squatting on a marshy plain, with a small oil refinery, a wonderful harbor, and a strong naval fortress, Batum, recently bombarded by Turkish warships, is the great naphtha port of Russia, a sea outlet for the oil fields of Baku, and the foremost city upon the eastern shore of the Black sea. It is a place of 40,000 inhabitants, alive with the snap of western business and filled with the color of eastern people. It has just three things to please the fancy: Alexander Park, on Lake Naric, at its eastern boundary; a cathedral completed in 1906; and a straight, palm-fringed boulevard along the sea.

Batum is about eight miles from the Turkish frontier in Asia Minor. Russia conquered it from Turkey, and the Congress of Berlin, in 1878, confirmed the conquest. In awarding Batum to Russia, it was stipulated that the port should not be made into a naval base, but the city is now a strongly fortified station. In 1911, following the collapse of the ancient, extensive harbor works, were undertaken, with the result that Batum has been made one of the safest, best-equipped harbors on the Black sea.

The city is very ancient in location and very recent in importance. It is mentioned, under various names, from early antiquity. The Russians have been the first to endeavor to launch it upon a career. Though still highly undecorated from a sanitary standpoint, it has a modern city's ground plan, the streets being the shortest ways between two points and most of the city squares having sharp right angles. Modern conveniences, however, have been lost sight of in the city's strife for business.

A pipe-line and a railway made Batum. The pipe-line is laid down from Baku, and it brings to the port its precious export—oil. The railway connects Batum with the main Transcaucasian line, through Tiflis, and with Baku. Besides petroleum and its by-products, the city ships tobacco, manganese, silk cocoons and wool. It imports tin and machinery. Greeks, the shrewd dealers in money and goods in the near east, have control of much of the business.

Tropical vegetation sets off the city. A recognizable tree and considerate bamboo are grown in a nearby valley. Lemon and orange trees grow out of doors. While mild and warm, the weather is very erratic. The annual rainfall is high—nearly inches—and falls mostly in August and September. Sometimes eighteen inches of rain bursts upon the city within forty-four hours. Batum is in its second, or, possibly, third childhood with only an occasional well-appointed house, but with a commerce of around \$20,000,000 a year, and with the same alertness of spirit which business success has brought to favored western cities.

The Vistula river, one of the mightiest streams flowing toward the north, sweeps in an irregular course, through three empires, Austria, Russia, and Germany. It serves as a frontier line between Austria and Germany, between Austria and Russia, and, for a shorter distance, between Russia and Germany. Upon its banks lie the cities of Cracow, Warsaw, Modlin, Plock, Kulm, Graudenz, Marienburg and the Baltic port of Danzig.

Geo. P. Learnard Piano Co.

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General Greely Writes About the Real France

The Vistula rises in Austrian Silisia, and takes a circuitous course of 650 miles to the sea. Its source is on the northern slopes of the West Beskiden, a spur range of the Carpathians. The upper reaches of the river run through a narrow, wooded valley, narrowing in places to a picturesque gorge, with tree-hung sides, and throughout its highland way is surrounded by as wild scenery as can be found within the United States.

Just before reaching Cracow, the Vistula leaves the mountains, and from this galaean city seaward it is navigable for smaller boats. Its direction from Cracow is away from its mouth, and it penetrates deep into the plains of Russian Poland before it turns, not far from Warsaw, back to German lands. Its banks through the high Polish plateau in the south are high bluffs, often sharp and faced with loosely held earth erosion, and altogether different of passage between bank and bank. From Warsaw on, it is navigable for larger river craft.

The plain through which the river runs from Warsaw to the Prussian boundary smooths away into swelling lowlands, the river course becomes tricky and wandering, while the sandy banks are forever sliding into the water. The Vistula enters Prussia 19 miles above Thorn, the strong Prussian frontier fortress. Beyond this point it cuts through the Prussian ridge, enters low country again, where its shifting banks give considerable trouble to navigation. The Prussian government has expended large sums of money in the endeavor to win a mastery of the river, and to keep it serviceable as a great trade artery. The Vistula has a heavy traffic of lumber, grain and other farm products.

The real France is a country of industry, of scientific application, of foresight and comfort, and of rich resources. General prosperity is best shown by the raised d'épaulette petty bourgeois, which numbering 1,400, receive only limited sums from their estates—wage earners, petty traders, men, etc. The depositors annually increase, in 1911 being 217 of the population. Despite the rising standard of living, the accumulations in these small banks had reached \$774,000, averaging \$15.55 to each man, woman and child in France.

A recent essay by Dr. H. S. Willaims treats of the savings of the four major countries of the world. He says: "France has the lowest wage scale and the highest percentage of savings-bank depositors, 34.6. America has by far the highest wage scale and by far the lowest savings-bank depositors, 3.8."

"Vastly beneficial are co-operative

strikes, and tying one end over the door, hanged himself until death occurred.

The district attorney's office was notified and Assistant District Attorney Chester A. Hulker went to the asylum and made an investigation. The asylum officials made no statement.

In the first place, I cannot understand how you have any homestead entry on a section 22, as all sections of that number are school sections and the property of the state, but assuming that you have a lawful right to the possession and use of your land, I cannot conceive of any right which your neighbor would have to dig into your ground to take away water. If you are correct in the number of your section, your neighbor cannot have any more legal right to his land than you to yours.

In response to your further question as to whether you have a right to dig down and wall up the tunnel which he has dug into your land, if the facts are as you state them, you can do anything that you choose upon or beneath the surface of your land and you have just as much right to the water beneath the surface as you have to the surface of the ground itself.

I feel, however, that you ought not to act upon such opinion as I express in this letter, but that you should consult your regular attorney and act upon his advice after having explained all the conditions and circumstances of the case. It is hardly proper for me, at the request of individual citizens who are able to employ counsel, to give advice which may constitute an interference with members of the bar who are engaged in efforts to make a living by the practice of law.

Dear Sir: I have just received your letter of the 21st inst., in which you say, in substance, that you are homogeneous, the northeast quarter of section 22 in township 8 south, range 9 east, which is higher than the ad-

joining land public by the attorney general's office, as follows:

Very truly yours,
FRANK W. CLANCY.

214 South Walter

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